

The Observer

THINGS INTERESTING TO THE DEAF

VOL. V.

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NO. 131

CLEVELAND COMMITTEE

WHEN a man does something good and helps his fellowmen he gets thanks in the form of kicks, as likely as not. Among certain classes this propensity to reward good with evil is more highly developed than among others. The propensity is strong in a good many deaf individuals who ought to know better. It is unfortunate, but this does not alter the fact that the disposition is there. The Cleveland convention was the biggest and best in the annals of the National association, but those who worked and perspired to make it so got scant appreciation from many who did not so much as put up a finger to help them. The treatment accorded the local committee of the Cleveland convention was no credit to those who preferred to overlook the good side and dig up baseless charges and publish them to the world in exaggerated form.

No two individuals approach the goal in the same way. Because the local committee saw fit to do certain things in their own way is no reason why those on the fence should throw mud and belittle the committee's efforts or raise the cry of graft. All right-minded persons feel their blood boil with indignation when they see such things done. The work of the local committee is best told by Mr. O. Hanson, who was in close touch with the committee until the final adjournment of the convention. In the last issue of the Journal Mr. Hanson says:

"A good deal has been said about the action of the Cleveland local committee in allowing commissions to those who raised funds for the N. A. D. I have refrained from commenting until the committee had completed its report. This has been done. The report has been sent to President Howard, and I presume will be published in the Journal before this letter reaches you.

The total expenses were.....\$1,907.96
Total expenditures 1,215.80

Balance\$692.16

"There is a little yet to be collected since the report was made out, which will bring the balance over \$700. Of the balance, \$500.00 has been paid to the Endowment fund, and the rest will be turned into the general treasury.

"The above does not include the \$100.00 raised by Mr. Allabough toward paying my traveling expenses to Cleveland. The committee paid \$70.00 for badges. This should have been refunded by the association treasury, and credited to the local committee. Thus the Cleveland committee is entitled to the credit of raising close to \$2,100.

"Opinions may differ as to the propriety of paying commission. On general principles I do not favor it. But when a man takes time from his work and thereby loses money, it is only fair that he should be reimbursed. In the case of Cleveland, I think that the payment of commissions was justified by the conditions that confronted the committee, as well as by the results attained.

"The committee was entirely within its rights in allowing commissions. Mr. Allabough, as advisory chairman, acted as my personal representative. I had complete confidence in him. As he, being on the ground and understanding the local situation, approves of the action of the committee, it has my full and complete approval. If any blame attaches to the committee for its course, I am entirely willing to bear my full share of responsibility for its action.

"The case in a nutshell is simply this: Without paying commission the committee would probably not have obtained enough funds to pay expenses; by paying commissions ample funds were secured, and the N. A. D. is ahead \$700.00. Does anybody object to this?

"K. B. Ayers was not the only one who received a commission. As shown by the report, several others earned substantial amounts. Commission was paid only on money secured by soliciting from the business men of Cleveland, 'the Sixth City.' No commission was paid on contributions from the deaf of the state. Mr. Ayers gave his entire time for two months to the work, and the amount he received, \$246.00, is not unreasonable, considering his expenses and the services rendered. In his work he received valuable assistance from his father, who used his large influence with business men of Cleveland to contribute to the fund. If it had not been for Mr. Ayers the convention would in all probability not have been anywhere near the success that it was. Instead of censure, Mr. Ayers and the entire local committee are entitled to the highest praise.

"The criticism of Mrs. Laura McDill Bates was unfortunate, in that it stirred up a subject that was unnecessary and placed it in an unfavorable light, which was wholly uncalled for. However, Mrs. Bates herself had been subject to unjust and uncalled for attacks, and I do not blame her for taking this means of relieving her mind. Mr. Ayers has shown his manliness by refraining from 'talking back' in the press against Mrs. Bates.

"There is too much disposition among the deaf to find faults and magnify them; and not enough to give credit for good work done. I hope that this incident is closed, and that we shall hear no more criticism of the local committee.

"Let us all get in line behind Mr. Howard and make the N. A. D. the strong and powerful organization that it ought to be."

DEAF CONTRACTOR IN MEXICO.

W. E. Dudley, one of our old boys, who graduated back in 1891, dropped in to see us Tuesday. He has done himself and his old school credit since he took his place in the world of affairs. He and two of his brothers have for twenty years been doing contracting work in various parts of the United States and Mexico, devoting their attention of late years to railroad building in the latter. The outbreak of the revolution caught them

with a big contract half finished, and they were pretty nervous thereafter until their work was completed and paid for. Many of the Mexican leaders who have starred in the press dispatches from the seat of war were visitors at the construction camp, and Mr. Dudley met President Madero on one of these occasions. The camp was not often molested, but on one occasion General Villa paid a visit to it and appropriated William's horse, a beautiful thoroughbred. The brothers were lucky enough to finish their work and get out of the country before the work of destroying railroads began.—Kentucky Standard.

THE VALUE OF READING.

Dr. E. A. Fay, of Gallaudet college, in a lecture on the value of reading to the deaf, said, "It is possible for the deaf to acquire as large a vocabulary and as good a command of language as hearing people by reading two hours a day. The average hearing person in the course of a day hears as many words as an ordinary reader reads in two hours, hence if a deaf person reads two hours a day he will get as many words as a hearing person, and it is by hearing or reading words and sentences again and again that we acquire a command of language."—Ohio Chronicle.

CONCERNING THE OBSERVER.

The Observer, Seattle, Wash., is under a new management, and instead of ceasing its publication January 1, it expects to continue to dispense the news. P. L. Axling, a prominent deaf citizen of the Pacific Northwest, succeeds W. S. Root as the editor. L. O. Christensen is still the publisher, but at a new plant, 222 Liberty building, Seattle, Wash. Congratulations and best wishes to The Observer.—Mississippi Voice.

The Silent Observer will not be the "lone" paper to bear the name "Observer" which it was the first to take upon itself. We understood not long ago that the Seattle "Observer" was to be suspended at the coming of the New Year, according to the publisher Mr. Christensen's announcement. But, instead, Phil L. Axling has been engaged as the editor to assist the publisher to keep up the flickering life of the Seattle Observer. Here's our hoping that the second Observer will exist as long as the first Observer has—about 37 years—and that both papers may continue to be "Observers" as long as the good interests which they serve, keep alive in the future.—Tennessee Observer.

The deaf of Washington, D. C., appear a bit slow to one who reads of the proposition now being agitated there to form a division of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf. Forty-five cities, many of them much smaller than the national capital, have established divisions. Nevertheless, all good frats hope to see staid old Washington listed among the elect before long. Here's wishing the frats there success in their move for a division!

THE OBSERVER

P. L. AXLING - - - Editor

The Observer is issued every two weeks on Thursday. It is published in the interest of the deaf everywhere.

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DE L'EPPE STATUE FUND.

In a recent issue The Observer had a few words to say on "Monuments and Endowments," referring to the starting of the fund for a monument to the Abbe De l'Eppe and suggesting that the Endowment fund of the N. A. D. be given the right-of-way. These statements brought out letters from both sides commending and criticizing, according to the way the writers looked at the question.

The De l'Eppe monument fund was authorized by the national association in convention assembled, and as a member of the association and its representative in the Greater Northwest, it is not meet that the editor of The Observer find fault with the work of the committee or its organization. Our statements in the former editorial, were not intended to criticize, but rather to convey a hint to the great body of the American deaf that the Endowment fund needed more boosting. Our words seem to have had the effect of stirring up the latent enthusiasm of those behind the De l'Eppe fund, for there is unmistakable evidences of civility in all quarters and the Endowment boosters should not permit their enthusiasm to lag. If anything we say has the effect of in any way advancing the interests of the National association, we shall feel satisfied.

Here's a suggestion to the fund committees—a suggestion conveyed to us by one who has the welfare of the National association at heart, and given to the members of the organization as worthy of consideration: The Endowment fund should have the cash the moment it is pledged, in order to make it earn interest; the De l'Eppe fund can wait for the cash if the donor prefers to hand it over at a later date. Many who raise money for a worthy purpose have found that larger amounts can be secured from each individual, and they are given more cheerfully, if the donor is only asked to sign a pledge for a specified amount, to be paid at a later date that may be more convenient than "cash on the spot." This being the case, might it

not be a good idea for the committee to have a supply of blank pledges printed and placed in the hands of its workers, to be filled out and signed, with an appropriate date well into the future set for the payment of every pledge, thus raising practically the whole amount the same day? This arrangement need not interfere with the frequent publication of the amounts collected or pledged.

CHILDREN OF DEAF PARENTS.

President Howard, of the National Association of the Deaf, has appointed a committee whose duty it shall be to collect photographs of children of deaf parents, to be placed in the "Temple of Children" at the Panama-Pacific exposition in San Francisco in 1915. The chairman of the committee is Clarence Boxley, of Effingham, Ill. Mr. Howard desires that all deaf couples who have children have pictures taken of them as soon as possible and forward the pictures to the chairman, who will label them and arrange the exhibit. Undoubtedly hundreds of these photographs will begin pouring in on Mr. Boxley soon, and it is suggested that parents can facilitate his work by attending to their part at the earliest moment possible.

This will be an unique exhibit at the San Francisco fair, and if properly handled will do a great deal to advertise the deaf as home-loving folk and at the same time disillusion the general public of the mistaken notion that every child born of deaf parents must be deaf too. It is of course assumed that the committee will make it plain that the children whose features are thus shown to the public are hearing children. Here's an opportunity for the committee to knock out the props from under the "deaf variety of the human race" theory.

TACOMA LOCAL NOTES.

Mrs. A. W. Lorenz entertained the Women's Thursday Club in a delightful manner February 12th. Those present at luncheon were Mesdames Foster, Lorenz, Hutson, Bertram and Seeley, Miss Slegel, little Marion Bertram and baby Dorothy Foster. Mrs. Seeley is to be hostess March 12th.

We Tacomans who attended the P. S. A. D. banquet in Seattle February 21st are enthusiastic over the evening's entertainment. It was Mr. Lorenz's first glimpse of the Rainier city. Though duly impressed, he still thinks there's no place equal to Tacoma.

Although it was another rainy meeting night, Saturday evening, the 28th of February, the Tacoma Club members turned up promptly at the Bertram's. A lively business meeting was held, after which delicious refreshments were served and the guests departed at a late hour feeling thoroughly satisfied with the evening's entertainment. The next meeting will be held the last Saturday evening of March at the home of Mrs. Hutson, Rieney Hill, South Tacoma.

Charles Hammond's cottage is being thoroughly renovated and painted inside and out. The work is being done by Louis Bander.

Rev. Oscar Fedder, of Seattle, conducted divine service for the Tacoma deaf Sunday, March 8, at the Lutheran church, corner South L and Sixteenth. After the services the women of the congregation decided to make the most of the beautiful day by walk-

ing down the hill to the Avenue. As they were strolling down the quiet street they noticed a youth ahead who took no pains to conceal the interest he felt in them. Indeed, so loth was he to take his eyes off them that he walked backward most of the time—grinning unabashed the while. "Better ask him a few leading questions," suggested one. "Is he forward or backward?" asked another. "He seems to be both." "Why don't you call out and ask him which he is?"

While thus the women debated, the boy kept grinning, and while she who was implored to for once make good use of her voice was screwing up her courage to the speaking point, they reached a corner. The boy having already started on his downward and backward course, the "woman with the voice" saw her way out and turned the corner, gayly waving her hand to the youth, to signify "Good-bye, you are left." (He was about 10 or 12 years old.)

Another of the women beckoned for him to come along if he wished and to the dismay of all, the "backward yet forward" youth acceded with alacrity. They were absolutely dumbfounded, however, when the boy said in signs that he was formerly a pupil of the Vancouver school, being now one of the oral day school pupils of this city. The women were overwhelmed with pity for the misguided boy and were going to besiege him with questions anent the oral school, but the boy silently slipped away, evidently fearing to be seen with any one talking in signs. He will doubtless never forget the cheering thought that for once at least in his life he was thought to be a hearing person.

Mrs. Seeley is submerged with inquiries as to the meaning of "The Orb of Circumferences." She begs to inform all kind inquirers that the "Orb of Circumferences" is a body of unknown diameter which has lodged in the eye of either the editor or his office boy, and that until said body is removed the sufferer will be unable to see that what Mrs. Seeley meant to talk about was "The Orb of Circumstance."

MANUAL ALPHABETIC BLOCKS.

Superintendent Rothert of the Iowa School has recently conceived and carried out the idea of having the manual alphabet placed on blocks after the manner of ordinary A, B, C blocks for children to play with. These blocks are to be used in the manual classes and it is believed that they will be a great help to the little pupils. Why not endeavor to have these blocks adopted by manufacturers of children's toys, so there would be a general sale of them? —Minnesota Companion.

Anton Schroeder, treasurer of the De l'Eppe monument committee of the N. A. D., is selling alphabet post cards and will donate a part of all he takes in to the fund. The post card is unique and something out of the usual run. Our information is that the price is a cent per card. All the deaf should take at least a dozen cards and distribute them among their hearing friends, thus helping Mr. Schroeder in his efforts and at the same time diffusing the gospel of the manual alphabet among the hearing. True Partidge is acting as Mr. Schroeder's agent in Seattle.

SEATTLE LOCAL NEWS

J. E. Gustin made a trip to Bremerton last week and remained over night with the McConnell family.

John D. Thomas took a week-end run down to Tacoma, visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hammond.

C. K. McConnell, Hugo A. Holcombe and Ruddy Stuhrt were over from Bremerton last Saturday to attend the meeting of the Frats.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Swangren had a gathering of the north end deaf Sunday afternoon and evening and a pleasant time was spent by those who were present.

The Seattle Frats met Saturday evening last at the secretary's office in the Pacific building. There was a good attendance and the meeting was an interesting one.

Claire A. Reeves is reported to have been working in a roofing factory in his home town the past winter. He owns a small ranch near Vancouver, Wash., and will return there soon.

L. O. Christenson has again contracted the house-hunting fever. He thinks seriously of buying a home shortly, but finds it difficult to get hold of a place that suits his ideals and his pocket book.

John D. Thomas, of Seattle, and George Ecker, of Whites, have applied for membership in Seattle division No. 44, N. F. S. D. Charles Hammond, of Tacoma, will probably be the next to put in his application.

The Puget Sound Association of the Deaf will hold its March meeting next Saturday evening at the usual place, Carpenter's Hall. The new officers elected at the last meeting will assume their duties then.

Emery E. Vinson, since getting married, has been inoculated with the home-owning fever and is paying for a house on Union avenue in Portland. Mr. Vinson is a printer and is doing very well, according to reports.

Otto J. Klawitter is reported to have gone to Cumberland, B. C., where he expects to remain for the next two months. Mr. Klawitter is a steel erector by trade. He is a hearing man but his wife is deaf, and they live at 4408 Fortieth avenue south, Seattle.

A. C. McDonald, instructor of carpentry at the Vancouver school, has invested some of his spare coin in another lot, one adjoining the lot he has owned near where L. A. Divine lives. This gives him a plot 100 by 100 feet, making a very desirable building place.

True Partridge spends all his spare time digging in the lawn and garden of his home at Fauntleroy park. He is leveling the lawn and making a garden to supply his table with fresh stuff the coming summer. Mr. Axling was over the other day and did some surgical work on Mr. Partridge's fruit trees.

Saturday evening, February 28, a number of the Seattle deaf journeyed to Columbia and took in an impromptu house-warming party given by Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Klawitter, who have just finished a fine new home. The weather was so bad that evening that many who intended going failed to show up.

Mrs. Ernest Swangren's mother was in Seattle sometime ago, remaining several days with her. It is probable that, owing to Mr. Swangren not being sure of steady employment in Se-

attle, the couple will move to Portland in the near future, with prospects of entering the poultry business in one of the suburbs.

Lewis E. Garrison, for several years a resident of Denver, but more lately living in San Diego, is in Seattle and if he finds the outlook in his line good he will remain. He attended the South Dakota school at the same time as P. L. Axling was there. He is a painter and paper hanger, and has followed this work ever since leaving school.

The many Seattle friends of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Divine will be pleased to hear the latter is now on the road to complete recovery after undergoing a serious operation. Mrs. Divine has been in frail health for quite a long time and the operation was inevitable to restore her to health. She is receiving the best of care and the doctor looks for a speedy return to good health.

Mrs. J. T. Siders, formerly a pupil in the Kansas school and then known as Ida Bolton, lives on an irrigated ranch in the famous Snake river valley of Idaho. Her husband is in the employ of the government, but the nature of his work is not stated. Mrs. Siders states she would like to rent her ranch this year to some reliable deaf couple. Unfortunately the Observer was not given Mrs. Sider's address.

LIFE OF ABBE DE L'EPPE.

Edwin I. Holycross, of Columbus, Ohio, has published a little book giving the life story of the Abbe De l'Eppe, and reports that he is making many sales. The book also gives much information concerning the establishing of the first permanent school for the deaf in America and tells about Abbe Sicard, Dr. T. H. Gallaudet, Laurent Clerc, and others, who had a hand in the early education of the deaf in this country. There are many valuable illustrations. It is a historical volume that should be in the hands of all the deaf of the country, and they should see that their hearing friends also secure copies of the book.

The publisher has authorized P. L. Axling to act as his agent in this part of the country. The price of the book is 75 cents and orders may be sent to Mr. Axling's business address: 316 Pacific building, Seattle. The book will be sent postage paid.

Rev. H. C. Merrill, well known in Portland, Oregon, and nearby places, lost his brother through his being run over and killed by a train at Huron, South Dakota. The man had been engaged in railroading for many years, and the accident was one that will happen every now and then to the most experienced in that line.

J. Frederick Meagher, poet, fantastic prose composer and editor of The Washingtonian, the red, white and blue organ of the Washington state school for the deaf, throws a few bouquets at the Seattle deaf in his last issue. 'Tis a cold day when The

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Bible Class for the deaf meets

on the third Sunday of each month at 3
p. m. in Trinity Parish Church, corner
Eighth Ave. & James St. All welcome.

Olof Hanson, Lay-reader, in charge

Washingtonian overlooks Seattle—and then we are liable to throw a fit. All J. Freddy seems to see in the frail sex of Seattle's deaf colony these days is a procession to the matrimonial license desk and then to the minister's.

NOTICE TO ALL EXCHANGES!

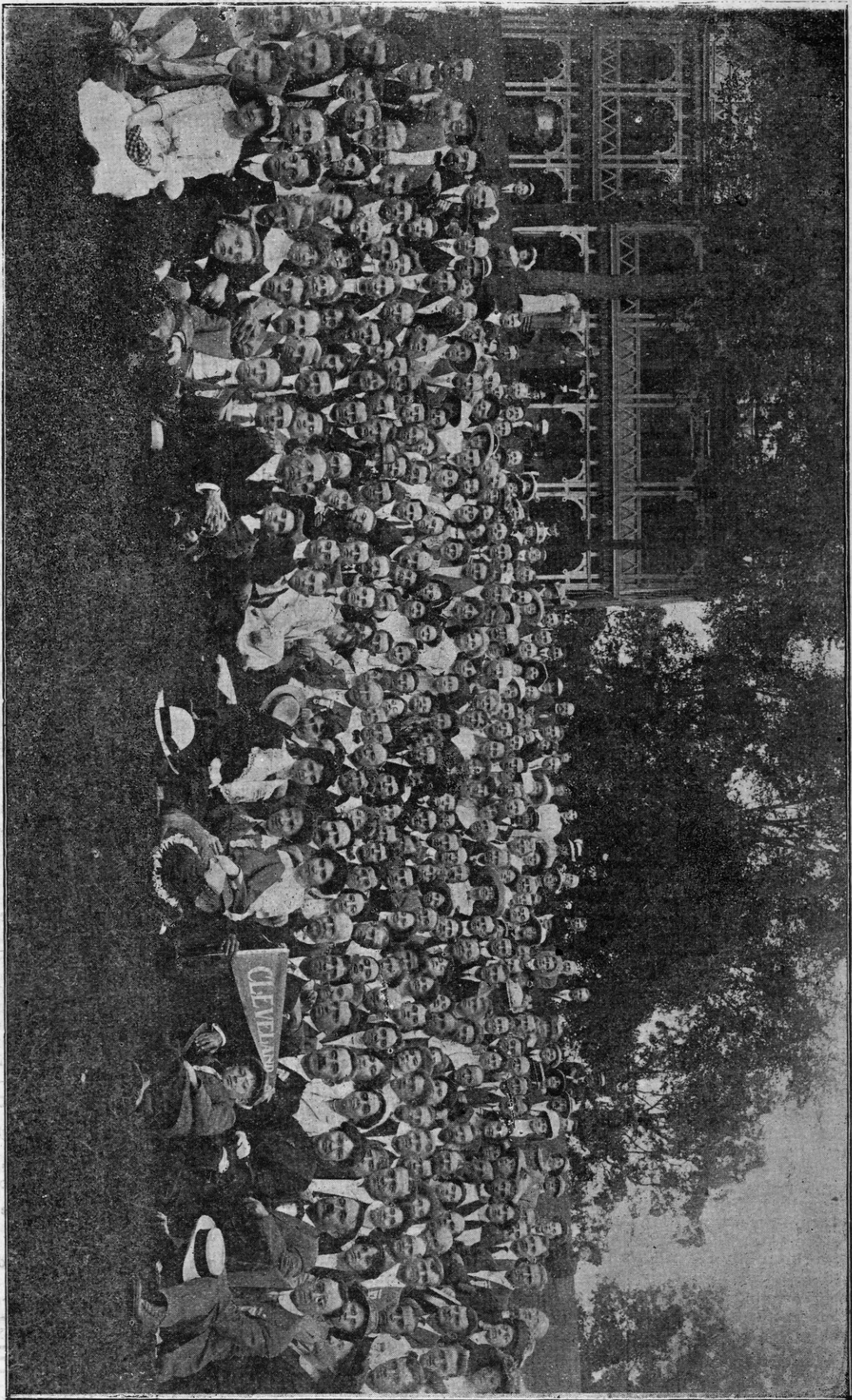
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National Association of the Deaf in Convention at Cleveland, Ohio, August, 1913

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